

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01  
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04  
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07  
PA-01 PRS-01 AF-10 /112 W  
-----151124Z 075524 /14

R 151011Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7500  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EALR, CE, IN

SUBJ: SRI LANKA-INDIAN COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

1. IN THE LATTER PART OF 1976, SRI LANKA MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, T. B. SUBASINGHE, AND INDIA'S MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, K. D. MALAVIYA, AGREED TO EXCHANGE GEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION RELATED TO OIL EXPLORATION IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. REPORTEDLY, DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD AT THE SAME TIME ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN ASSISTANCE IN TAKING UP WHERE THE RUSSIANS LEFT OFF IN DRILLING ONSHORE EXPLORATORY WELLS IN THE MANNAR AREA.

2. RICHARD HARRISON, WHO REPLACED SAM POYTHRESS AS PEXAMIN'S GEOLOGICAL ADVISOR TO THE CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CPC), TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PROGRAM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND THAT NOTHING HAS COME OF THE IDEA OF INDIAN DRILLING ASSISTANCE. WHILE SRI LANKA SUPPLIED SOME INFORMATION ON BOTH ITS ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE WELLS, THE INDIANS

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HAVE SO FAR PROVIDED NOTHING IN RETURN. CONSEQUENTLY, SRI LANKA HAS STOPPED SENDING INFORMATION, AND THE WHOLE PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE IN ABEYANCE. COMMENTING ON LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF DRILLING BY THE CANADIAN COMPANY, ASAMARA, IN THE INDIAN PART OF THE GULF OF MANNAR, HARRISON SAID PEXAMIN AND THE CPC ARE WATCHING ASAMARA'S PROGRESS WITH GREAT INTEREST. IF ASAMARA FINDS ANY EVIDENCE OF PETROLEUM DEPOSITS, THIS WOULD BE A

GREAT HELP TO PEXAMIN IN PERSUADING SOMEONE TO TAKE THE CAPITAL  
RISK OF DRILLING AT LEAST TWO MORE OFFSHORE WELLS IN PALK BAY.  
PERKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COLOMB02088  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SRI LANKA-INDIAN COOPERATION IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009